

The future is knocking at our door right now. Make no mistake, the next generation will ask us one of two questions. Either they will ask: "What were you thinking; why didn't you act?"

Or they will ask instead: "How did you find the moral courage to rise and successfully resolve a crisis that so many said was impossible to solve?"

We have everything we need to get started, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

So let us renew it, and say together: "We have a purpose. We are many. For this purpose we will rise, and we will act."

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MICHAEL HERMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph M. Herman a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Michael Herman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE TEACHERS OF THE ILLINOIS' FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WHO RECEIVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION IN 2007

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize sixty eight distinguished teachers from Illinois' Fifth Congressional District who have been honored with National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

National Board Certification is the highest level of certification in the teaching profession, and these teachers have earned this distinction through their service, commitment, and excellence in teaching.

Those who are honored with this award are widely considered to be at the peak of their profession, providing countless opportunities for children to learn and excel. National Board Certified teachers are also statistically proven to increase financial opportunities within their districts, strengthen the teaching practice, and improve student learning.

Applicants for this award may spend up to three years proving themselves, while undergoing peer reviews by 12 separate teachers, passing competency and skill testing within his

or her individual specialty, and demonstrating educational outreach beyond the walls of the classroom.

Teachers everywhere play a critical role in our children's lives, and these sixty-eight individuals have exemplified that spirit and motivation, guiding students with patience, compassion, concern, and most of all, dedication to their profession.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor these distinguished educators on their award of National Board Certification. I have no doubt that their efforts have had a tremendous impact on countless children throughout the Chicago-area, and that they will continue their profound effect for years to come.

I wish to congratulate:

Cynthia Ahn of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Cynthia Anderson of Highcrest Middle School; Wendy Anderson of Audubon Elementary School; Rolando Argumedo of Nobel Elementary School; Anita Aysola of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Rosemary Barilla of Sauganash Elementary School; Pamela Barreda of McPherson Elementary School; Becky Benkiser of Mitchell Elementary School; Jessica Bezares of Avondale Elementary School; and Patricia Bonness of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Daniel Caldwell of Northside College Preparatory High School; Elizabeth Campe-Montcalm of Sullivan High School; Paul Carrera of Lane Technical High School; Jennifer Catron of Depriest Elementary School; Holly Clark of Roosevelt School; Jennifer Cline; Alan Demski of Taft High School; Adlin Dominguez of Roque De Duprey Elementary School; Edward Dziedzic of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; and Catalina Fernandez of Vaughn Occupational High School.

Laura Floyd of Mayer Elementary School; Anna Franczyk; Tiffany Frayer of Moos Elementary School; Mary Galligan of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Christopher Gamble of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School; Valerie Gemske of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School; Donna Goode of Solomon Elementary School; Laurie Green of Bridge Elementary School; Francese Guerrero Borrull of Roosevelt High School; and Samara Guzman of Newberry Elementary Math & Science Academy.

Deidre Habetler of Dever Elementary School; Arthur Helbig of Casals Elementary School; Patricia Jones of Haugan Elementary School; Sarah Kissell; Renee Kreczmer of Sauganash Elementary School; Phyllis Kuziel-Perri of Hitch Elementary School; Wendy Lambie of Gray Elementary School; Joan Leber of Talcott Elementary School; Carrie Lewin of Donoghue Elementary School; and Martin Lombardo of Foreman High School.

Eileen Luciano of Sumner Elementary Math & Science Community Academy; Erin Luzadder of Palatine High School; Katrin Machaj of Lane Technical High School; Dona Maldonado of Hamline Elementary School; Gladys Maldonado of Haugan Elementary School; Martha Maly of Jenner Elementary Academy of The Arts; Mary Martin of Hawthorne Elementary Scholastic Academy; Tricia McGann of Sheridan Elementary Math & Science Academy; James McIntosh of Roosevelt High School; and Traci Meziere of Central Elementary School.

Michelle Nash of Hammond Elementary School; Jennifer Nelson of New Field Element-

tary School; James Newman of Taft High School; Thomas O'Brien of Flower Career Academy High School; Marguerite O'Connell of Foreman High School; Alicia Peshel of Mitchell Elementary School; Johonna Pollack of Saucedo Elementary Scholastic Academy; Holly Pruett of O.A. Thorp Elementary Scholastic Academy; Ana Romero of McKinley Park Elementary School; and Selma Saidane of Kellogg Elementary School.

Richard Sasso of Hinsdale South High School; Julianne Soble of Solomon Elementary School; William Spain of Amundsen High School; Darlene Stone of Donoghue Elementary School; Jennifer Trejo of Taft High School; Patrice Turk; Yoni Vallecillo of Senn High School; and Kristen Wilkens of Best Practice High School.

CONCERNS ABOUT BORDER PATROL ACTIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, like many of our colleagues I have seen recent news reports about the use of pepper spray by Border Patrol officers who have been the targets of attacks by people on the other side of our southern border.

I am sure that we all agree that the officers can and should defend themselves, but like others I am concerned about the extent to which use of pepper spray or other chemical agents could have unintended consequences.

In that connection, I think we should carefully consider a recent editorial in the Gazette, a daily newspaper published in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

As the editorial puts it:

The Mexican Consulate has complained, and rightly so. The United States is not at war with Mexico, and it makes sense to maintain friendly relations with our southern neighbor.

Border Patrol officials argued that the agents need to protect themselves, and that the smugglers should be blamed for hiding behind innocent people. Well, there are better ways to protect against criminals than to saturate entire neighborhoods with tear-gas canisters. For starters, the Border Patrol could engage in cooperative efforts with the Tijuana police or the Mexican federal authorities to go after the rock-throwers.

I think that is a suggestion well worth exploring.

For the information of all our colleagues, here is the complete text of the editorial:

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Dec. 18, 2007]

BORDER PATROL SHOULD STOP TEAR-GAS ATTACKS

What would Americans think if Mexican officials routinely fired pepper spray and tear gas into California neighborhoods as a way to root out, say, smugglers who were operating from the U.S. side of the border? How would we, as Americans, feel if our houses were damaged, our neighborhoods evacuated and our children endangered because of the aggressive tactics of the Mexican police or military?

Most Americans would no doubt be outraged. American officials would likely demand that Mexico cease and desist from such